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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Note verbale dated 8 January 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly, Mogens Lykketoft, and the President of the Security Council, Elbio Rosselli, and has, upon the instruction of its Government, the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Zoran Milanović, concerning the nomination of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Vesna Pusić, for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex).

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Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 8 January 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 5 January 2016 from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

We have the honour to nominate Vesna Pusić for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations. We thereby reconfirm Ms. Pusić's nomination, which we have already announced in our letter of 21 October 2015. Her curriculum vitae is attached hereto (see enclosure).

For the past four years Ms. Pusić has been holding the office of Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, and for the past three years also the office of the First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia.

Ms. Pusić has a distinguished national and international career, both as a politician and as a member of academia, which makes her completely suited for assuming this position of global leadership and responsibility. She has been actively involved in national and international politics for more than two decades, and had a very prominent role in Croatia's accession negotiations to the European Union, chairing the Parliamentarian Committee in charge of monitoring the negotiations. Prior to that, she also served as a Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament and as a Vice-President of the European Liberals.

During her tenure as the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, she has been especially active on development, humanitarian and human rights issues. A particular focus in her work has been the empowerment of women and girls, especially in post-conflict and transition societies, a topic which she strongly advocated both within the United Nations and the European Union frameworks.

We are confident that Ms. Pusić will bring to the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations a unique and rewarding combination of strong leadership, vision, personal integrity, management skills, a rich academic background and, above all, a deep understanding of global and regional issues.

We strongly support and believe in the principle of equitable geographical distribution for the highest leadership positions in the United Nations system. Since, to date, only the Eastern European Group has not had the honour to have its representative in the position of the Organization's highest official, we believe that the next Secretary-General should come from our region.

Furthermore, we also strongly support the gender equality principle in the selection and appointment process for the post of Secretary-General. Considering the 70 years of the Organization's existence, it is high time that a woman of impeccable and outstanding credentials be considered on an equal basis for this highly eminent post, and we are strongly convinced that Ms. Pusić, with her tireless dedication and many years of intensive leadership on global, development and human rights issues, is best suited for this demanding task.

We would be grateful if consultations could be facilitated and Member States and the Security Council so informed, in accordance with paragraph 60 of General Assembly resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997, and if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

We stand ready to provide you with any additional information, if needed.

(*Signed*) Zoran **Milanović**
Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia

Enclosure

Vesna Pusić, PhD

- **Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, First Deputy Prime Minister, Government of the Republic of Croatia**
- **Member of the Croatian Parliament**
  - **Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament**
  - **Parliamentary Floor Leader of the HNS-Liberal Democrats Group in the Croatian Parliament**
  - **Chairwoman of the National Committee for Monitoring the Europran Union Accession Negotiation**
- **Professor of Sociology and Political Theory, University of Zagreb**

Education

- BA University of Zagreb, 1976 — Sociology and Philosophy
- PhD University of Zagreb, 1984 — Sociology
- University of Chicago (USA), 1972 — Sociology — semester study
- Humphrey Fellow, Postdoctoral Program, American University, Washington, DC. 1984/85 — Management of Human Resources

Summary

My professional career has developed in three areas:

- Academia and scientific research
- Non-governmental sector of social activism
- Politics — Government

Over time I worked in these three areas consecutively, but they also overlapped and I had been active in more than one area simultaneously. My experience in one area definitely informed and influenced my work in the others, which created more of a synergy than an orderly chronology.

- My **academic and scientific** career started in 1975 and lasted until 2010. However, the last 10 years — 2000 to 2010 — were the years where I focused more on politics, while still teaching at the University of Zagreb.
- My first **NGO** was also the first feminist group in former Yugoslavia, which I started with 6 other women in 1979. In 1992 I co-founded and became director of the *Erasmus Guild*, a non-government, non-partisan think tank for the culture of democracy. The think tank was active from 1992 to 1998. In that capacity I was the publisher of ERASMUS, a journal promoting the culture of democracy.
- I entered **politics** in 2000 when I was first elected an MP. I have since served both in the legislative and the executive branches.

Academia and Scientific Research

Main areas of academic and research interest: political theory, theory of democracy, transition and transformation in post-communist and post-conflict societies, organizational theory, industrial relations, industrial democracy and gender studies. I have published scientific work and lectured in all of these areas.

- 1975-1979: worked as a member of the IDE International Research Group doing comparative research on industrial democracy in 12 European countries, coordinated from the Wissenschaftscentrum, Berlin. Co-authored the research-based publications "Industrial Democracy in Europe" and "European Industrial Relations", both Clarendon Press, Oxford 1981.
- 1976-1978: worked as a researcher at the Institute of Sociology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- Since 1978: working at the Sociology Department, University of Zagreb; 1992-1994, Head of the Department.
- 1998: elected to full Professor, teaching courses in Sociology of Politics and Theories of Industrial Democracy.
- Since 2010: still formally affiliated with the University of Zagreb, but not teaching.

During the course of my professional career, I have either led or participated in a number of empirical research projects.

- From 1989 to 1991 I conducted an empirical study on managerial style in 18 of the most successful industrial organizations in Croatia. This served as the basis for an analysis of the managerial elite as a potential caretaker political elite for the transition period in Croatia. The results of this study were published in my book *The Leaders and the Managers*, Novi Liber, 1992.
- In 1995/96 I coordinated an empirical research project on dominant political, religious, family, work and environmental values in Croatia, which was a part of the global *World Value Survey* started 17 years earlier by the Institute of Social Research at the University of Michigan. This research became part of a larger project effort in Croatia, entitled *A New Agenda for a New Democracy*.

Non-governmental Sector of Social Activism

- ***Women and Society*** — In 1979, together with six other women, started the first feminist group in the former Yugoslavia. At that time feminism was seen both politically and socially as very controversial. But political pressure and attacks created the opposite effect and the group attracted significant interest and grew quickly. Since at that time NGOs were unknown and nonexistent in Yugoslavia, we were also seen as illegal and threatened with formal action. The Croatian Sociological Association offered to host us as part of their activities and the initiative survived within that framework. It became the seminal women's and feminist organization in Croatia for years to come.

- ***Erasmus Guild*** — In 1992 I co-founded and became director of the *Erasmus Guild*, a non-government, non-partisan think tank for the culture of democracy. The think tank was active from 1992 to 1998. *Erasmus Guild* published a political journal — ERASMUS, a series of books on political culture, democracy and political transition, as well as organized a number of round tables on various political issues. All our activities focused on advocating dialogue and finding peaceful solutions for the wars that at that time raged in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. We also provided a critical analysis of authoritarian regimes of the 1990s both in Croatia and other countries in the region. Fighting extreme nationalism, in the fall of 1993 Erasmus organized the round table discussion «Serbs and Croats». It was the first meeting of intellectuals, civil society representatives and Catholic and Orthodox Church officials from Croatia and Serbia since the beginning of the war. For six years Erasmus provided a strong voice in Croatia against authoritarianism, extreme nationalism and war. It was strongly criticized by the authorities, but it also provided a positive influence on the changes that started in the second half of the 90s.

Politics

- Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, First Deputy Prime Minister, Government of the Republic of Croatia
- Member of Croatian Parliament, elected 2000, 2003, 2007 and 2011;
  - o Member of Foreign Relations Committee, European Integration Committee, Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System, Defence Committee, Joint Parliamentary Committee Croatia — European Union;
  - o Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament 2003-2007;
  - o President of the National Committee for Monitoring the European Union Accession Negotiations 2007-2011;
  - o Parliamentary floor leader of Croatian People's Party group in the Croatian Parliament 2000-2003, 2007-2011;
- Vice-president of ELDR (European Liberal Democrat and Reform party) — elected for two terms;
- Leader, Croatian People's Party, 2000-2008, 2013-present;

Guest lectureships and professional councils

- 1992 to 1997 — member of the Joint Committee for Eastern Europe of the American Council of Learned Societies. Member of the Research Council of the International Forum for Democratic Studies.
- I have lectured at the University of Chicago; the American University, Washington, D.C.; The New School for Social Research, New York; Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; The Wilson Center, Washington, D.C.; the International Democratic Forum, Washington, D.C.; the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State and gave talks at a number of other European and American institutions.

- During the academic year 1996/97 I was the E. L. Wiegand Distinguished Visiting Professor of Democratization at Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, Washington, D.C.
- I spent the academic year 1984/85 at the School of International Service, The American University, Washington, D.C. as a H. H. Humphrey Fellow specializing in management of human resources.
- In 1980 I taught at the Sloan School of Management at M.I.T. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Publications

Books

- *Democracies and Dictatorships*, Durieux, 1998.
- *The Leaders and the Managers*, Novi Liber, 1992.
- *Industrial Democracy and Civil Society*, Sociološko društvo Hrvatske, 1986.
- *Industrial Democracy in Europe*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1981 (co-author)

Other

- *European Industrial Relations*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1981 (co-author)
- Author of approximately 50 scientific and professional articles in domestic and international journals